GOVERNMENT OF INDIA
FINANCE
LOK SABHA

UNSTARRED QUESTION NO:7762
ANSWERED ON:17.05.2002
REVAMPING CUSTOMS DEPARTMENT
A.F. GOLAM OSMANI;SHYAMA SINGH

Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Customs authorities at Delhi have since investigated the various discrepancies detected by air cargo unit of Customs against Sam Avia during the last three years;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) whether the Government propose to tone up the functioning of the customs at various airports to check such discrepancies of the private cargo airlines; and

(d) if so, the details thereof?

Answer

MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE (GINGEE N. RAMACHANDRAN)

(a) & (b): Yes, Sir. The Customs authorities in Delhi have conducted investigations against M/s. Sam Aviation Pvt. Ltd. in connection with two separate cases detected by the Air Cargo Unit.

In the first of these cases, miscellaneous unmanifested goods valued at Rs.55.57 lakhs, being attempted to be smuggled out by a flight operated by M/s. East Line Aviation Ltd., of whom M/s. Sam Aviation Ltd. were one of the agents, were seized on 9.2.1997. Subsequently, the goods were ordered to be confiscated and penalties were also imposed on the said two companies as well as some of their employees. Appeals against the order for confiscation and imposition of penalties are presently pending in the High Court of Delhi.

In the second case involving fraudulent claims of drawback to the tune of Rs.3.5 crores, the role of M/s. Sam Aviation Pvt. Ltd. is under investigation.

(c) & (d): All field formations under the Customs Department including Directorate of Revenue Intelligence are alert and vigilant to prevent such discrepancies by the private cargo airlines at various airports of the country.